

The Connecticut General Assembly



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Middletown Delegation Announces Funding for Local Arts Organizations

Three Middletown groups receive grants from Office of the Arts

The Middletown legislative delegation announced today that three Middletown arts groups have been awarded grants from the Department of Economic and Community Development's Office of the Arts. The grants were provided in conjunction with the Shoreline Arts Alliance through the Regional Initiative grant program (REGI).

REGI funds small arts projects that support access to the creative process, especially those projects that experiment with new ways to apply the arts within community.

"I'm thrilled for all the awardees. Arts funding makes Middletown a more vibrant community," **Rep. Matthew Lesser** (D-Middletown) said. "I will continue to do everything I can to fight for our cultural institutions."

"I'm very happy that in these challenging times money is available to support the arts in our community," **Rep. Joe Serra** (D-Middletown) said. "The arts play a vitally important role in communities, and Middletown will benefit greatly from this funding."

"One of the reasons why Connecticut consistently ranks so high in national polls for having one of the best qualities of life in America is because the state legislature supports the arts in our communities – support like these three Middletown groups are receiving," said state **Senator Dante Bartolomeo**, (D-Meriden), whose senate district includes a portion of Middletown. "Music and drama have been helping to define civilization for centuries; that continues to this day, and I am proud to lend my support."

"These grants help support the great cultural and economic assets that are the Middletown arts community," said **Senator Paul Doyle**. "From musical to theatrical performances, Noah Baerman's Jazz Up Close, the McDonough Playwrights Community

and the ARTFARM Community Ensemble help make Middletown a more vibrant place to live, and attract visitors who then patronize our many local restaurants and businesses. These small grants will go a long way toward furthering the work of these three organizations, and I am very glad we were able to help secure them.”

REGI is a partnership between the Connecticut Office of the Arts (COA) and the state’s Designated Regional Service Organizations. The Shoreline Arts Alliance, which represents Middletown, is one of nine Regional Service Organizations that support arts in the community and act as local field offices to constituents.

Grants were awarded to the following applicants:

- \$3,800 for Noah Baerman: Jazz Up Close: Crossing Cultures
- \$2,500 for Macdonough Elementary School: Macdonough Playwrights Community
- \$3,200 for ARTFARM Community Ensemble

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